



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

August 3, 2011

Dear Tribal Leader:

On July 12, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to set additional secondary (welfare) national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for oxides of nitrogen and sulfur. These standards provide protection against air pollutants that impact public welfare such as ecosystems, vegetation, and other resources. The purpose of this letter is to invite you to consult on this proposal. EPA is proposing to retain the existing secondary NAAQS for oxides of nitrogen and sulfur. These proposed standards are:

- For NO₂: 0.053 ppm (parts per million) averaged over one year
- For SO₂: 0.5 ppm averaged over three hours and not to be exceeded more than once per year

EPA is also proposing to establish an additional set of secondary standards identical to the new health-based primary standards the Agency set in 2010. These standards are:

- For NO₂: 100 ppb (parts per billion) averaged over one hour
- For SO₂: 75 ppb averaged over one hour

The proposed rule and accompanying materials, including maps relating to current air quality and deposition of oxides of nitrogen and sulfur in the U.S., are available on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/no2so2sec/index.html>.

EPA has made significant progress in developing a multi-pollutant standard that would address the indirect effects NO_x and SO_x have on sensitive ecosystems. While there is strong scientific support for developing this type of standard, EPA does not yet have enough information to set a multi-pollutant standard that adequately protects the diverse ecosystems across the country. EPA is planning a field pilot program to collect and analyze additional data and information that would help inform the next five-year review of the standards for oxides of nitrogen and sulfur.

EPA does not believe the proposed rule will have adverse implications for tribes. By setting the secondary standard equal to the primary standard there are no new implementation or monitoring requirements for states. However, to ensure that your lands and interests are protected, we open the door to consultation and welcome any additional information about the standards or potential impacts you would like to share.

EPA will accept comment for 60 days after the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register on or about August 1st. EPA will also hold a public hearing in Washington, DC in late August or early September. We will be available to discuss the proposed revisions in other settings as well, such as the NTAA call on August 25th. If you prefer to initiate a formal consultation with EPA on this rule, please contact Angel McCormack at (919) 541-3588, email: mccormack.angel@epa.gov or Laura McKelvey at (919) 541-5497, email: mckelvey.laura@epa.gov.

We want your input to assure that we develop the best rules possible. We endeavor to conduct our efforts with sensitivity to the needs and culture of tribes and with attention to the impact of our actions on tribal sovereignty. We look forward to receiving your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rosalinda M. Rodriguez for". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lydia N. Wegman
Director
Health and Environmental Impacts Division

cc: Tribal Environmental Director
Tribal Environmental Staff